

Apple. No. : 09/623,728
Filed : January 22, 2001

In The Claims:

Claims 1 - 7 and 21 - 28 are pending in the application. Please amend claims 1 and 25 as follows:

1. (amended) A fusion protein for the alleviation of symptoms associated with an autoimmune disorder comprising an immunoglobulin or portion thereof linked to one or more autoantigenic polypeptides or fragments thereof wherein said immunoglobulin or portion thereof is capable of binding to an Fc receptor and being endocytosed by an antigen presenting cell and said one or more autoantigenic polypeptides or fragments thereof ~~is derived from a protein responsible for an autoimmune disease~~ and provides at least one T cell receptor peptide agonist for presentation on the surface of said antigen presenting cell upon endocytic processing thereby resulting in downregulation of autoreactive T cells.
2. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 1 wherein the immunoglobulin or portion thereof comprises at least part of a domain of a constant region of an immunoglobulin molecule.
3. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 1 wherein the immunoglobulin or portion thereof comprises a human IgG molecule or portion thereof.
4. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 1 wherein said one or more autoantigenic polypeptides or fragments thereof is associated with an immune disorder selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, lupis, rheumatoid arthritis, scleroderma, insulin-dependent diabetes and ulcerative colitis.
5. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 1 wherein said one or more autoantigenic polypeptides or fragments thereof comprise at least a portion of myelin basic protein.

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6. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 1 wherein said one or more autoantigenic polypeptides or fragments thereof comprises at least a portion of proteolipid protein.
7. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 1 wherein said one or more autoantigenic polypeptides or fragments thereof comprises at least a portion of myelin basic protein and at least a portion of proteolipid protein.
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled).
10. (canceled).
11. (canceled).
12. (canceled).
13. (canceled).
14. (canceled).
15. (canceled).
16. (canceled).
17. (canceled).
18. (canceled).
19. (canceled).

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20. (canceled).

21. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 1, wherein said fusion protein comprises an immunoglobulin or portion thereof linked to one autoantigenic polypeptide or fragment thereof.

22. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 21 wherein said immunoglobulin or portion thereof comprises at least part of a domain of a constant region of an immunoglobulin molecule.

23. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 21 wherein said immunoglobulin or portion thereof comprises a human IgG molecule or portion thereof.

24. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 21 wherein said autoantigenic polypeptide or fragment thereof is associated with an autoimmune disorder selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, lupis, rheumatoid arthritis, scleroderma, insulin-dependent diabetes and ulcerative colitis.

25. (currently amended) The fusion protein of claim ~~24~~ 3 wherein said autoantigenic polypeptide or fragment thereof is associated with an autoimmune disorder selected from the group consisting multiple sclerosis, lupis, rheumatoid arthritis, scleroderma, insulin-dependent diabetes and ulcerative colitis.

26. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 21 wherein said autoantigenic polypeptide or fragment thereof comprises at least a portion of myelin basic protein.

27. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 21 wherein said autoantigenic polypeptide or fragment thereof comprises at least a portion of proteolipid protein .

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28. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 21 wherein said autoantigenic polypeptide or fragment thereof comprises at least a portion of myelin basic protein and at least a portion of proteolipid protein.